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Serial no. 10/825,880

Filed 4/17/2004

Attorney docket no. BEA920030033US1

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In the specification

Please replace the paragraphs on page 2, line 22, through page 4, line 21 (in the summary section), with the following paragraphs:

The invention relates to limiting access to publicly exposed object-oriented interfaces, via password arguments. ~~A system of the present invention includes a number of inter-related first objects that share a predetermined password. A number of first object-oriented interfaces define methods supported by the inter-related first objects. The inter-related first objects publicly expose the first object-oriented interfaces. The first object-oriented interfaces are thus queryable by both the inter-related first objects as well as second objects, such that these objects are able to learn of the first object-oriented interfaces. However, each first object-oriented interface includes a password argument to limit access to the inter-related first objects sharing the predetermined the password.~~

~~— Another system of the present invention also includes a number of second object-oriented interfaces that define methods supported by the inter-related first objects. The inter-related first objects publicly expose the second object-oriented interfaces, too. The second object-oriented interfaces are also queryable by both the inter-related first objects as well as the second objects, such that these objects are able to learn of the second object-oriented interfaces. The second object-oriented interfaces are required by specification, such as that for the Common Information Model (CIM), and correspond to the first object-oriented interfaces. The second object-oriented interfaces, however, do not have password arguments to limit access. The methods defined by the second object-oriented interfaces are supported by the inter-related first objects to return a “not implemented” message in response to invocation of the methods, or a similar message that indicates that the functionalities of the methods has not been implemented or executed. These kinds of messages are encompassed under the phrase “a type of ‘not implemented’ message” as~~

used herein, as can be appreciated by those of ordinary skill within the art, and which is to be construed broadly. Furthermore, where the specific message "not implemented" is indicated elsewhere in the detailed description, it is to be understood that such a message is one specific example of the kinds of messages described here. Each second object-oriented interface is thus a non-implemented and password-free version of one of the first object-oriented interfaces.

—A method of an embodiment of the present invention includes an attempt to access a first object-oriented interface that defines a method supported by an inter-related first object, where the access attempt is made by [[an]] inter-related second objects. The inter-related first object is implemented via hardware, including one or more of memory, processors, and storage devices. The first object-oriented interface includes a password argument to limit access thereto. The first and the second objects share a predetermined password. The first object-oriented interface further has a corresponding second object-oriented interface defining a method supported by the first object. The corresponding second object-oriented interface is required by specification, and lacks a password argument to limit access thereto. Therefore, the method includes the second objects passing the predetermined password as the password argument of the first object-oriented interface, so that the second objects are [[is]] able to invoke the method defined by the first object-oriented interface. Furthermore, the method includes a third object not inter-related with the first and the second objects attempting to access the first object-oriented interface. The third object is not privy to the predetermined password. As such, the third object is unable to invoke the method defined by the first object-oriented interface, such that the first object-oriented interface is queryable by the third object but the method defined by the first object-oriented interface is uninvokable by the third object due to the third object not sharing the predetermined password. The inter-related first object and the inter-related second objects are greater than two in number in total.

—An article of manufacture of the present invention includes a computer-readable medium and means in the medium. The computer-readable medium may be a recordable data storage

~~medium, a modulated carrier signal, or another type of medium. The means in the medium is for supporting a first object-oriented interface and a second object-oriented interface, both of which define a method. The first object-oriented interface includes a password argument to limit access thereto inter-related objects, whereas the second object-oriented interface lacks a password argument to limit access thereto.~~

Please replace the abstract on page 27, lines 2-13 of the patent application as filed with the following abstract:

Inter-related second objects attempt to access a first object-oriented interface defining a method support by an inter-related first object. The first object-oriented interface includes a password argument to limit access thereto. The first and the second objects share a password. The first object-oriented interface has a corresponding second object-oriented interface defining a method supported by the first object, which is required by a predetermined specification but that lacks a password argument to limit access. The password is passed via the first object-oriented interface by the second objects such that the second objects are able to invoke the method. A third object not inter-related with the first and the second objects also attempts to access the first object-oriented interface. However, the third object is not privy to the password, and therefore is unable to invoke the method defined by the first object-oriented interface, although it can query the first object-oriented interface.

Limiting access to publicly exposed object-oriented interfaces is disclosed. A system includes inter-related first objects that share a predetermined password. First object-oriented interfaces define methods supported by the first objects. The first objects publicly expose the first interfaces, which are queryable by the first objects and second objects. Each first interface includes a password argument to limit access to the first objects. The system may also include

~~second object-oriented interfaces that define methods supported by the first objects that publicly expose the second interfaces, which are queryable by the first and the second objects. The second interfaces are required by specification, such as that for the Common Information Model (CIM), and correspond to the first interfaces. The second interfaces lack password arguments to limit access, and the methods defined thereby return "not implemented" messages when invoked. Each second interface is a non-implemented and password-free version of a first interface.~~